

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 02265 251910Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 /054 W
-----252035Z 108368 /53

P R 251707Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9512
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2265

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: LATEST VIEWS OF ALIANZA POPULAR

1. VICINIO DE LA FUENTE, ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE ALIANZA POPULAR, LUNCED WITH THE CHARGE MARCH 23. DURING THE CONVERSATION HE MADE THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL POINTS:

2. THE ELECTORAL LAW. DE LA FUENTE COMPLAINED THAT THE LAW IN SEVERAL RESPECTS DID NOT MEET THE AP'S CRITERIA, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT TO THE SENATE ELECTIONS. THE AP HAD WANTED THE ELECTION OF A SINGLE WINNER TAKE ALL LIST OF FOUR CANDIDATES. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FORMULA CHOSEN IN WHICH THE VOTER VOTES FOR THREE CANDIDATES AND THE FIRST FOUR PAST THE POST GET SEATS WAS FAR PREFERABLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 02265 251910Z

TO THE JAPANESE FORMULA (VOTE FOR ONLY ONE CANDIDATE WITH THE FIRST FOUR PAST THE POST WINNING) THAT SOME OF THE TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION HAD ADVOCATED. INTERESTINGLY, HD DID NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE THREE SEATS MINIMUM IN THE HOUSE, WHICH WAS LESS THAN THAT ADVOCATED BY THE AP.

3. THE PROBLEM OF SUAREZ CANDIDACY. HE CRITICIZED THE "TRICKERY" INVOLVED IN THE ELECTORAL LAW'S FINE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CABINET MINISTERS (WHO COULD NOT RUN) AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVT WHO AFTER ALL WAS REALLY A PRIME MINISTER. HE ALSO THOUGHT THE DECISION TO SET THE LOWER HOUSE THRESHOLD AT A LOW 3PERCENT AND SET IT ON A PROVINCE BASIS RELATED TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUAREZ WOULD CREATE HIS OWN "INDEPENDENT" COALITION. MOST PARTIES, WHETHER RIGHT, CENTER OR LEFT HAD WANTED A HIGHER THRESHOLD (SAY, 5PERCENT) AND ONE SET ON A REGIONAL BASIS SO THAT PARLIAMENTARY FRAGMENTATION WOULD BE FURTHER IMPEDED. HE COULD ONLY INTERPRET THIS DECISION AS A MEANS OF PERMITTING SO-CALLED "INDEPENDENT" CANDIDACIES, FOSTERED BY SUAREZ, IN A NUMBER OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

-- HE WENT ON TO PRESENT THE USUAL AP POSITION IN RESPECT TO SUAREZ' RUNNING SAYING THAT THIS WOULD IN AFFECT BECOME AN "OFFICIAL" IMPOSITION. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION ABOUT THE "AVILA FORMULA" IN WHICH SUAREZ WOULD STAND AS AN "INDEPENDENT" FROM HIS OWN SMALL PROVINCE (THREE SEATS), WITHOUT IDENTIFYING HIMSELF WITH ANY POLITICAL GROUP, DE LA FUENTE STATED THAT EVEN THAT WAS TROUBLESOME. (COMMENT: THIS IS BECAUSE ANY VARIETY OF SUAREZ CANDIDACY WILL BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE CENTER, WRIT LARGE.) HE THOUGHT SUAREZ MIGHT KEEP HIS OPTIONS OPEN UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE WHICH MIGHT BE AS LATE AS ABOUT MAY 10, IF ONE COUNTED BACK FROM A PRESUMED ELECTION DATE OF SAY, JUNE 12.

4. DE LA FUENTE--AS DID CRUZ MARTINEZ ESTERUELAS IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR -- SPOKE OF THE DESIRE FOR A BROAD POST-ELECTORAL PARLIAMENTARY COALITION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 02265 251910Z

IN WHICH THE AP MIGHT WELL PARTICIPATE AND EVEN SUPPORT SUAREZ, AS LONG AS HE DID NOT TURN PARTISAN.

5. THE LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. DE LA FUENTE THOUGHT THE LEGALIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY A FOREGONE CONCLUSION, PERHAPS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE SEEMED RESIGNED TO IT THOUGH HE REGRETTED IT. HE CLAIMED THE COMMUNIST PARTY MIGHT DO BETTER THAN PEOPLE EXPECT IN THE ELECTIONS BECAUSE OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH IN LABOR. HE CRITICIZED, WITH REASON, THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON LABOR REFORM. HE NOTED THE CORTES WILL FINALLY MEET ON LABOR MARCH 30 AND EXPECTED PASSAGE AFTER TOUGH SLEDDING. HE SAID THE SUAREZ GOVT HAD MADE A GREAT MISTAKE IN NOT INCLUDING SOMETHING ABOUT LABOR REFORM IN THE REFERENDUM (AS ARIAS HAD PROPOSED). CONSEQUENTLY THE WHOLE MATTER HAD DRAGGED ON MUCH TOO LONG WITH THE OLD SYNDICAL SYSTEM BREAKING UP AND NOTHING TO REPLACE IT. HE FELT THERE WAS STILL A POSSIBILITY THAT RESPECTABLE ELEMENTS FROM THE SYNDICAL STRUCTURE COULD PUT TOGETHER AN INDEPENDENT NON-POLITICAL LABOR GROUP

BUT THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY. SO FAR AS THE SOCIALIST UGT WAS CONCERNED IT COULD NOT AT THIS TIME HOLD A CANDLE TO THE PCE LABOR STRENGTH, AND THE GOVT WAS NOT DOING ANYTHING TO KEEP IT UP.

6. HE MADE THE USUAL AP PITCH FOR QUICK ACTION ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT AFTER THE ELECTIONS, NOTING THE LINKAGE WITH THE LABOR QUESTION, SINCE IT WAS CLEAR NOTHING WOULD BE DONE UNTIL THEN. HE SAID OF COURSE ECONOMIC ACTION MUCH EARLIER WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BEST COURSE.

7. HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT ONLY THE AP, THE PSOE AND THE PCE HAD MADE REASONABLE ORGANIZATION PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS. THE AP HAD VIABLE UNITS IN ALL PROVINCES HEADED BY LOCAL FIGURES. IT HAD AGREED TO "FEDERATE" FOR THE ELECTIONS AND WOULD PRESENT SINGLE AP LISTS WITH NO SEPARATE IDENTIFICATION FOR ITS SUB-GROUPS. THE UDPE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MADRID 02265 251910Z

WAS THE STRONGEST OF ITS SUB-GROUPS ORGANIZATIONALLY.

8. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE NOW FOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNITY, WHICH WOULD LEAVE THE CENTRO DEMOCRATICO WITH EVEN GREATER PROBLEMS THAT IT NOW HAS. EATON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID02265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770103-0411
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770322/aaaaasxg.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 763dd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2998308
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATEST VIEWS OF ALIANZA POPULAR
TAGS: PINT, SP, US, (DE LA FUENTE, VICINIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/763dd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009